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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/955,826	09/19/2001	James Richard Belanger	600.1170	1700

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EXAMINER

EVANS HENCE, ANDREA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2854

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/955,826		BELANGER ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Andrea H. Evans		2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION-FINAL REJECTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 20-28, and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katz (6,161,478)

Referring to claim 20, Katz teaches a rigid cylinder (26); at least one inflatable bladder disposed (32) disposed on a circumferential surface of the cylinder; and a flexible cylinder covering (36) disposed over an outer surface of the at least one inflatable bladder; a sleeve-shape printing sock (22) disposed on a circumferential surface of the flexible cover (36), the sleeve-shaped printing sock including a printing layer; and a fluid supply regulation unit (85) regulating

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a first fluid pressure inside the first set of inflatable bladders to alter a compressibility of the cylinder(See Column 3, lines 50-57).

Katz teaches a printing cylinder for an offset printing press but does not state that the printing cylinder is a blanket cylinder. However, it is well known in the art that a blanket cylinder, as claimed by applicant, is a type of printing cylinder, and therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Katz by replacing the printing cylinder with a blanket cylinder.

Referring to claim 21, Katz teaches the first set of inflatable bladders includes a plurality of inflatable bladders. (See Figure 2).

Referring to claim 22, Katz teaches the fluid supply regulation unit (85) connected to a first set of a plurality of bladders of the at least one bladder (See (32) on top and bottom of left side of the cylinder).

Referring to claim 23, Katz teaches a second fluid supply regulation unit (87) configured to supply a second fluid to a second set of inflatable bladders ((34) as shown on right side of the cylinder) and to regulate a second fluid pressure inside the second set of inflatable bladders.

Referring to claim 24, Katz teaches a first fluid line (See Figure 3) connecting the first fluid supply regulation unit (85) to the first set of bladders (32) and a second fluid line (See Figure 2) connecting the second fluid supply regulation unit (87) to the second set of inflatable bladders ((34) as shown on right side of the cylinder).

Referring to claim 25, Katz teaches a printing unit where in the first and second fluid supply regulation units ((85),(87)) are configured to regulate the first and second fluid pressures while the cylinder is rotating about the axis (See Figure 2).

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Referring to claim 26, Katz teaches that the first and second fluid lines include a rotary union configured to enable the first and second fluid to flow through the fluid lines while the cylinder is rotating about the axis. (See the connection point between the fluid supply regulation unit (85))

Referring to claim 27, Katz teaches the fluid supply regulation unit regulates air (Column 3, lines 50-53).

Referring to claim 28, Katz teaches the printing unit wherein the flexible cylinder covering (36) includes a single-layer material and is disposed adjacent to the outer surface of at least one bladder (See Figure 2).

Referring to claim 30, Katz teaches a method for mounting a sleeve-shaped printing sock (12) onto a cylinder (10), the method comprising: at least partially deflating a set of inflatable bladders (48) disposed at an outer region of the cylinder; positioning the sleeve-shaped sock over one end of the cylinder so that the printing sock at least partially surrounds a circumference of the cylinder (See Column 4, lines 4-8); and inflating the set of inflatable bladders so that the printing sock fits tightly around the circumference of the cylinder (See Column 4, lines 8-14); and adjusting a compressibility of the printing sock on the blanket cylinder (See Column 4, lines 10-18 and lines 21-27).

Katz teaches a printing cylinder for an offset printing press but does not state that the printing cylinder is a blanket cylinder. However, it is well known in the art that a blanket cylinder, as claimed by applicant, is a type of printing cylinder, and therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Katz by replacing the printing cylinder with a blanket cylinder.

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Referring to claim 31, Katz teaches the method further comprising adjusting a fluid pressure inside the at least one inflatable bladder to set a desired printing quality (See Column 4, lines 9-10).

Referring to claim 32, Katz teaches the method wherein the compressibility is adjusted during a printing operation (See Column 4, lines 14-19).

4. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katz (6,161,478) in view of Rau et al (5,784,957).

Referring to claim 29, Katz teaches all that is claimed, as discussed in the above rejections except Katz does not teach the use of a heat exchanger connected to the first fluid regulation unit. Rau et al. discloses a heat exchanger (34).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Katz by including a heat exchanger to aid in regulating the temperature of the fluid to prevent it from detrimentally effecting the system as taught by Rau et al.

Response to Arguments

5. Examiner acknowledges that Katz does not teach the sleeve-shaped sock in combination with a blanket cylinder; however, it is well known in the art that a blanket cylinder, as claimed by applicant, is a type of printing cylinder, and therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Katz by replacing the printing cylinder with a blanket cylinder. The Knauer (4807527) reference is an example of a printing forme such as blanket cylinder with a removable sleeve.

Also, Katz teaches compressibility is adjusted during a printing operation (See Column 4, lines 14-19). Regardless of which definition is used, the definition as stated by Applicant is met since the volume of the cylinder can be adjusted by the inflatable bladders.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrea H. Evans whose telephone number is (571) 272-2162. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday; 8:30a-5:30p.

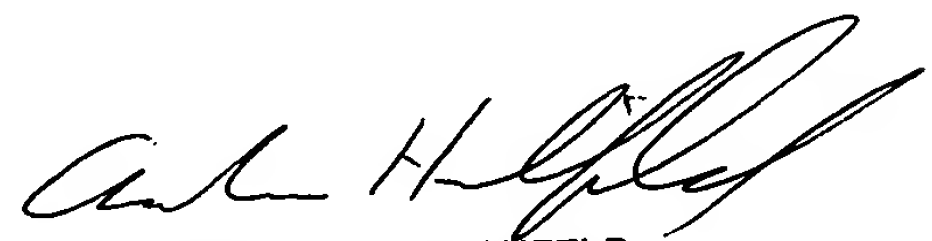
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Andrea H. Evans

AHE



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